

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 02763 01 OF 08 121549Z

43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 AID-05 DPW-01 IO-10 SR-02

ORM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /089 W

----- 010999

R 121111Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3553

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

USIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 8 SAIGON 02763

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 02763 01 OF 08 121549Z

USIA FOR IBS/NCA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MIL VS

SUBJ: VIETNAM WEEKLY CEASEFIRE ASSESSMENT FOR MARCH 5-11, 1975

PART I -- SUMMARY

A. THE SITUATION CHANGED DRAMATICALLY THIS WEEK, AS COMMUNIST-INITIATED MILITARY ACTIVITY ROSE MARKEDLY COUNTRYWIDE. THE INITIAL IMPACT OF WHAT IS CLEARLY THE START OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE SPRING OFFENSIVE WAS MOST SHARPLY FELT IN MR 1 AND MR 2. IN THE FORMER, THE INTENSE NVA/VC ATTACKS HAVE LED TO OVER 120,000 NEW REFUGEES FROM THE TWO MOST NORTHERN PROVINCES (QUANG TRI AND THUA THIEN) OVER THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS (SEE SAIGON 2723 AND 2724 NOTAL). THE COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE IN MR 2 BEGAN MARCH 4-5 WITH COORDINATED ATTACKS AGAINST THE MAIN LOCS BETWEEN THE COAST AND THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS, AND THE ROAD FROM PLEIKU TO BAN ME THUOT IN DARLAC PROVINCE. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY MASSIVE NVA/VC ATTACKS IN QUANG DUC (MARCH 9) AND AGAINST BAN ME THUOT (MARCH 10). DUC LAP TOWN IN QUANG DUC HAS FALLEN AND THE BATTLE FOR BAN ME THUOT CONTINUES. ALTHOUGH THERE WERE HEAVY COMMUNIST ATTACKS IN MR 3 (REGISTERING THE GREATEST NUMBER OF INCIDENTS SINCE THE FALL OF PHUOC LONG), AS WELL AS THE FIRST ROCKETING OF BIEN HOA AIR BASE IN FIVE WEEKS, THE GVN EXPECTS THAT THE FULL BRUNT OF THE NEW COMMUNIST CAMPAIGN IN REGION 3 LIES AHEAD.

B. NVA/VC INCIDENTS WERE THE HIGHEST THIS YEAR IN MR 1, UP MORE THAN 150 PER CENT FROM A WEEK AGO. MULTIPLE COMMUNIST ATTACKS NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS BEGAN MARCH 8 ALONG THE WESTERN CONTACT LINE (MAINLY AGAINST REGULAR FORCES), AS WELL AS IN LOWLAND AREAS EAST OF QL 1 AGAINST TERRITORIAL FORCES AND SUB-SECTOR HQS. IN QUANG TIN, SOUTH OF THE PASS, NVA/VC FORCES APPARENTLY HAVE OVERRUN TWO DISTRICT TOWNS. A MARCH 11 ROCKET ATTACK AGAINST DA NANG AIR BASE DESTROYED AN F-5E AND DAMAGED AN AC-119.

C. THE CURRENT INTENSE COMMUNIST ATTACKS IN MR 2, INVOLVING AN EFFORT TO CUT KEY ROADS AND SEIZE MORE TERRITORY IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS, MESHES WITH INTELLIGENCE INDICATORS OF THE PAST FEW MONTHS AS TO COMMUNIST INTENTIONS. THE NVA/VC HAVE BEEN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 02763 01 OF 08 121549Z

TRYING TO SUPPORT THESE MAIN GOALS WITH THE APPLICATION OF PRESSURE IN OTHER AREAS. THIS HAS LED TO THE MOST WIDESPREAD FIGHTING IN MR 2 SINCE BEFORE THE CEASEFIRE. THIS PAST WEEK SAW SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY IN BINH DINH, DARLAC, QUANG DUC, PHU BON, PLEIKU AND KHANH HOA. THE HEAVY COMMUNIST GROUND ATTACK IN THE LATTER PROVINCE IS THE FIRST THERE SINCE THE CEASEFIRE. KONTUM ALSO SAW ACTIVITY, EVEN THOUGH THE COMMUNIST ATTACKS WERE NOT MAJOR AND PROBABLY WERE DESIGNED TO DIVERT THE GVN FROM THE MAIN BATTLE

AREAS DOWN SOUTH. THE COMMUNIST ACTIONS IN PHU BON HAVE GENERATED SEVERAL THOUSAND REFUGEES, AND A LARGE NUMBER OF VIVILIANS HAVE LEFT KONTUM IN ORDER TO AVOID FURTHER ATTACKS THERE.

D. THE HEAVY COMMUNIST ATTACKS IN MR 3 FOCUSED THIS WEEK ON ROUTE 22 TO TAY NINH AND AGAINST TRI TAM CITY. WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED WORD THAT TRI TAM HAS FALLEN. OTHER IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THIS BEGINNING OF THE SECOND PHASE OF THE COMMUNIST DRY SEASON CAMPAIGN INVOLVED SIGNIFICANT CONTACTS IN LONG AN PROVINCE, 30 ROCKET ROUNDS INTO BIEN HOA AIR BASE MARCH 11, AND FURTHER SAPPER ACTIVITY IN THE GIA DINH AREA AROUND SAIGON.

E. IN RELATIVE TERMS, MR 4 WAS THE QUIETEST AREA THIS WEEK, EVEN THOUGH IN THE DELTA ACTIVITY WAS HIGHER THAN A WEEK AGO AND THERE WAS A SHARP INCREASE IN INCIDENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD. GVN PRE-EMPTIVE OPERATIONS AGAIN PROVED TO BE A USEFUL TACTIC. THERE WERE NO PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT CONTACTS IN THE NORTHERN DELTA. IN SA DEC PROVINCE IN THE CENTER OF MR 4, A VC BATTALION IN 50 SAMPANS WAS CAUGHT BY A VNN PATROL AND HALF OF THE SAMPANS WERE SUNK. IN PHUOC LONG DISTRICT OF BAC LIEU PROVINCE IN THE SOUTHERN DELTA, THE SECTOR S-2 SPOTTED TWO VC COMPANIES WITH A 105 MM ARTILERY PIECE. THE S-2 REQUESTED AN AIR STRIKE, BUT THIS WAS DENIED BECAUSE IT WAS CONSIDERED LOW PRIORITY.

PART II -- ICCS.

A. THE NVA ATTACKS IN GVN MR-1 AND MR-2 TRAPPED THE INDONESIAN AND IRANIAN OFFICERS IN ONE TEAM SITE, BAN ME THUOT, AND RESULTED IN AT LEAST SOME TEMPORARY WITHDRAWALS FROM ICCS HEADQUARTERS AND TEAM SITES IN THESE REGIONS. AT A CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION, THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS REFUSED TO AGREE TO ISSUING A FORMAL APPEAL TO THE PARTIES BUT AUTHORIZED THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MONTH, THE INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR, TO CONTACT THE REPRESENTATIVES
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAIGON 02763 01 OF 08 121549Z

OF BOTH PARTIES AND DISCUSS MODALITIES FOR RESCUING THE ICCS OFFICERS, WHICH HE HAS DONE.

B. CONTINUING TO COMPLY WITH ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE ICCS PROTOCOL, THE GVN CONTRIBUTED A FURTHER \$1.4 MILLION TO THE ICCS BUDGET. NEITHER THIS AMOUNT NOR PAYMENT OF THE FINAL GVN INSTALMENT OF \$1.4 IN THE NEAR FUTURE WOULD SUFFICE TO AVOID ANOTHER ICCS FINANCIAL CRISIS.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 02763 02 OF 08 121636Z

43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 AID-05 DPW-01 IO-10 SR-02

ORM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /089 W

----- 011678

R 121111Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3554

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

USIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 8 SAIGON 02763

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 02763 02 OF 08 121636Z

USIA FOR IBS/NCA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PART III -- FPJMT, TPJMC AND RELATED MATTERS.

THE DRV/"PRG" BOYCOTT OF THE FPJMT AND TPJMC CONTINUED INTO ITS THIRTY-EIGHT WEEK.

PART IV -- COMMUNIST COMMENT.

A. JANUARY "HOC TAP" ANALYZES "A NEW STAGE" IN THE SOUTHERN WAR.

A RECENTLY TRANSLATED ARTICLE IN THE JANUARY ISSUE OF THE AUTHORITATIVE

VWP JOURNAL "HOC TAP" ANALYZES DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SOUTH AS POINTING TO A "NEW STAGE" OF "DISTURBANCES IN THE SOUTHERN CITIES." THE ARTICLE CONTENDS THAT THE COMMUNISTS "HAVE COMPLETELY GAINED THE INITIATIVE ON THE BATTLEFIELD," COMMUNIST-HELD TERRITORY "HAS BEEN EXPANDED," AND EVENTS IN THE REST OF INDOCHINA "ARE GREATLY INFLUENCING THE STRONG GROWTH OF THE SOUTHERN REVOLUTION." AT THE SAME TIME, THE ARTICLE SAYS, THE GVN'S "NIBBLING OPERATIONS... AND CAPABILITIES OF REOCCUPYING LAND," AS WELL AS "THE INTENSITY OF FIREPOWER AND THE AMOUNT OF MOBILE EQUIPMENT" HAVE "MARKEDLY DECREASED" BECAUSE "THE U.S. CONGRESS HAS REDUCED" AMERICAN AID TO THE GVN. CONDITIONS ARE RIPE, THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES, FOR THE COMMUNISTS TO "JOIN FORCES" WITH THE NON-COMMUNIST URBAN ACTIVISTS TO ACHIEVE "THE COMMON GOAL."

B. "PRG" COMMENTS ON BAN ME THOUT ATTACK.

A "PRG" FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT MARCH 11 RESTATED THE COMMUNIST HARD LINE AND RATIONALIZED THE RECENT MILITARY ATTACKS ON BAN ME THUOT AND SEVERAL DISTRICT TOWNS. THE "PRG" STATEMENT ACCUSES THE US AND GVN, BY POINTING OUT THAT NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCES WERE MAKING THE ATTACK, OF "SLANDERING THE PRG AND DRV" FOR THE PURPOSE OF "DECEIVING PUBLIC OPINION, CONCEALING THEIR ACTS OF WAR, AND ASKING FOR MORE MILITARY AID." THE STATEMENT FURTHER ASSERTS THAT "THE PEOPLE OF BAN ME THUOT....., TOGETHER WITH THE PLAF, HAVE RISEN UP IN STRUGGLE AGAINST THE THIEU CLIQUE TO WIN BACK THEIR RIGHT TO BE MASTERS." THE STATEMENT ALSO REITERATES THE "PRG'S" OCTOBER 8, 1974, STATEMENT CALLING FOR, INTER ALIA, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 02763 02 OF 08 121636Z

AN END TO US AID AND INVOLVEMENT, AND THE OVERTHROW OF "THIEU AND HIS FACTION" BEFORE NEGOTIATIONS CAN BE RESUMED.

PART V -- MR 1.

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

I CORPS HQS BRIEFED 288 NVA/VC CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS DURING THE

WEEK, UP SUBSTANTIALLY FROM THE PREVIOUS WEEK'S 109. NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS, ON MARCH 8TH THE NVA/VC LAUNCHED ATTACKS ON ARVN, RF AND MARINE POSITIONS ALONG THE WESTERN CONTACT LINE, ESPECIALLY IN WESTERN HAI LANG DISTRICT OF QUANG TRI, THE LUU HOA AREA OF THUA THIEN, AND THE MO TAU - NUI BONG AREA OF SOUTHERN THUA THIEN PROVINCE. A SAPPER ATTACK ON MAI LINH SUBSECTOR (QUANG TRI PROVINCE) RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF THE GVN DISTRICT CHIEF. ALSO BEGINNING MARCH 8, NVA/VC UNITS INFILTRATED INTO LOWLAND AREAS OF QUANG TRI AND THUA THIEN EAST OF Q.L. 1 AND ATTACKED SUB-SUBSECTORS AND TERRITORIAL FORCES THROUGHOUT BOTH PROVINCES. AN ESTIMATED 120,000 TEMPORARILY DISPLACED WAR VICTIMS, MOSTLY FROM QUANG TRI, HAVE ARRIVED IN HUE. SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS, THE MOST SIGNIFICANT FIGHTING OCCURRED IN QUANG TIN PROVINCE, WHERE ON MARCH 10 THE NVA/VC ATTACKED AND ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE OVERRUN HAU DUC AND TIEN PHUOC DISTRICT TOWNS. DANANG AIRBASE WAS ROCKETED ON MARCH 11, RESULTING IN THE LOSS OF AN F5E AND AN AC-119 SLIGHTLY DAMAGED. IN QUANG NAM, THE LARGEST CLASH OCCURRED ON MARCH 5, WHEN NVA/VC ATTACKED A BATTALION OF THE 56TH REGIMENT IN DUC DUC DISTRICT. IN QUANG NGAI, THE ARVN 2ND DIVISION CONTINUED ATTEMPTS TO TAKE HIGH GROUND IN SOUTHERN NGHIA HANH DISTRICT AND NORTHEASTERN MO DUC DISTRICT. DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD, GVN CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED AS 151 KIA, 518 WIA, 82 MIA. NVA/VC LOSSES WERE 681 KIA, 80 CAPTURED, NO RETURNEES. THESE CASUALTY FIGURES ARE STILL INCOMPLETE. A TOTAL OF 282 COMBAT AIR SORTIES WERE FLOWN.

2. NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

QUANG TRI:

ON MAR 8, NVA/VC OPENED ATTACKS ON THE RF BATTALIONS NEAR DONG ONG DO AND HILL 300 IN WESTERN HAI LANG DISTRICT, WHICH HAVE CONTINUED THROUGH MARCH 11. THE RF BATTALIONS WERE REPORTEDLY CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAIGON 02763 02 OF 08 121636Z

HOLDING THESE POSITIONS. AT 1050 HRS, MARCH 8, SAPPERS PENETRATED MAI LINH SUBSECTOR (DISTRICT) HEADQUARTERS AND KILLED 8 PERSONS, INCLUDING THE DISTRICT CHIEF. NVA/VC FORCES CROSSED EAST OF HWY 1 NEAR THE MY CHANH RIVER ON THE QUANG TRI/THUA THIEN BORDER, AND CLASHED WITH THE 120TH RF BATTALION, WHICH AT THE CLOSE OF THE REPORTING PERIOD WAS ATTEMPTING TO SWEEP THE AREA. CONTACTS WITH NVA/VC FORCES WERE ALSO REPORTED IN HAI NHI, HAI LAM, HAI LANG, HAI BINH SUB-SUBSECTOR AREAS DURING MAR 8, 9, AND 10. THE CONGEN'S HUE PROVINCIAL OFFICE DIRECTOR ESTIMATED THAT AS OF THE MORNING OF MAR 11 APPROXIMATELY 120,000 QUANG TRI RESIDENTS HAD FLED TO HUE.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 02763 03 OF 08 121641Z

42

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 AID-05 DPW-01 IO-10 SR-02

ORM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /089 W

----- 011761

R 121111Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3555

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

USIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 8 SAIGON 02763

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 02763 03 OF 08 121641Z

USIA FOR IBS/NCA
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

THUA THIEN:

NVA/VC ATTACKS ALONG THE CONTACT LINE IN THE WESTERN PART OF NORTHERN THUA THIEN (P) BEGAN ON MAR 8, WITH GROUND ATTACKS AND ARTY AGAINST POSITIONS OF THE 2D, 3D, 4TH, 5TH, AND 7TH MARI E BATTALIONS AND THE 112TH AND 127TH AND 130TH RF BATTALIONS (TANKS WERE REPORTEDLY USED AGAINST THE 130TH RF BN). THESE ATTACKS HAVE CONTINUED THROUGH MAR 9 AND 10, BUT THE SCOPE AND RESULTS OF THESE ATTACKS HAVE NOT YET BEEN FULLY REPORTED. I CORPS G-3 CLAIMED MARCH 11, HOWEVER, THAT NO SIGNIFICANT POSITIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN IN THESE AREAS BY THE NVA/VC.

IN SOUTHERN THUA THIEN (P), ATTACKS ON 1ST DIVISION ELEMENTS NEAR MO TAU AND BONG MOUNTAINS ALSO BEGAN ON MAR 8 AND HAVE CONTINUED SINCE. I CORPS G-3 REPORTS THE ONLY IMPORTANT POSITIONS CAPTURED BY THE NVA/VC AND NOT YET RETAKEN BY ARVN ARE HILL 224 (YD929012) WHICH HAD BEEN HELD BY THE 1ST BATTALION OF THE 1ST REGIMENT, 1ST ARVN DIVISION AND HILL 501 (YD905021). RESULTS ARE STILL INCOMPLETE, BUT I CORPS REPORTS THAT AS OF 2000 HOURS, MARCH 9, 1ST REGT LOSSES WERE 32 KIA, 45 WIA, AND 134 MIA, BUT THAT THE 1ST REGT CLAIMED 122 NVA/VC KIA AND 6 CAPTURED, ALONG WITH LARGE QUANTITIES OF AMMUNITION.

CONCURRENT WITH THE ATTACKS ALONG THE CONTACT LINE, NVA/VC ELEMENTS INFILTRATED INTO THE LOWLAND PLAINS EAST OF HWY 1, ATTACKING TERRITORIAL FORCES AND SUB-SUBSECTORS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE. NVA/VC COMPANY SIZE UNITS REPORTEDLY CROSSED BY BOAT INTO SOUTHERN VINH LOC (D), FROM WHERE ON MARCH 10TH THE 111TH RF BATTALION AND POPULAR FORCES PLATOONS WERE ATTEMPTING TO CLEAR THEM. NUMEROUS ATTACKS ON SUB SUBSECTORS AND CLASHES WITH PF UNITS WERE REPORTED IN PHONG DIEN AND QUANG DIEN DISTRICTS NORTH OF HUE. THE SINGLE LARGEST CONTACT IN THE LOWLAND AREAS WAS REPORTED IN HUONG THUY (D), 6KM SE OF HUE, WHERE THE 8TH AIRBORNE BATTALION REPORTED KILLING 17 NVA/VC ON MARCH 9. CLEARING OPERATIONS IN THE LOWLAND DISTRICTS ARE CONTINUING.

ARVN HAS LOST 2 HELICOPTER GUNSHIPS IN THUA THIEN, ONE TO GROUND FIRE AND THE OTHER APPARENTLY DUE TO AN ACCIDENT. AN ENGINEER UNIT WAS SHELLED WITH 3 ROUNDS OF UNKNOWN TYPE WHICH DESTROYED 30,000 LITERS OF DIESEL FUEL AND 20,000 LITERS OF GASOLINE. TWO NVA/VC TANKS WERE REPORTED DESTROYED AND 1
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 02763 03 OF 08 121641Z

DAMAGED BY GVN ARTILLERY FIRE IN PHONG DIEN (D). ON MARCH 8 AND 9, PHU BAI AIRBASE CAME UNDER ROCKET AND ARTILLERY FIRE, BUT REMAINS OPEN AS OF LATEST REPORTS.

3. SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

DANANG:

AT 04#01 #4 , HARCH 11, NVA/VC FIRED APPROXIMATELY 15 RDS OF 122MM ROCKETS INTO DANANG AIRBASE AND NEARBY HOA VANG SUBSECTOR, RESULTING IN 11 PERSONS KILLED, AND 13 WOUNDED. ONE F5E AIRCRAFT WAS DESTROYED, AND ONE AC-119 WAS DAMAGEE.

QUANG NAH:

ON MARCH 5, NVA/VC ATTACKED POSITIONS OF THE 2D BATTALION, 56TH REGIMENT IN DUC DUC, RESULTING IN GVN 17 KIA AND 53 WIA AND NVA/VC 91 KIA. POSITIONS OF THE AIRBORNE AND DUC DUC SUBSECTOR WERE ALSO SHELLEE DURING THE WEEK. ON MARCH 11, NVA/VC ATTACKED THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE 143D RF BN IN EIEN BAN (D); GVN LOSSES WERE 3 WIA AGAINST 7 NVA/VC KIA.

QUANG TI :

AT 0500 ON MARCH 10, NVA/VC FORCES ATTACKED HAU DUC (D). BY 0600 HRS, THE 102D RF BN WAS WITHDRAWING AND RADIO CONTACT WAS LOST. AT 1000 HRS, NVA/VC ATTACKED NEARBY TIEN PHUOC (D) AND THE 134TH RF BN DEFENDING THAT DISTRICT. RADIO CONTACT WITH THE 134TH RF BN, THE EISTRIC HEADQUARTERS, AND HILL 211 (BT117158) WAS LOST AT 1300 HRS. THE TWO DISTRICTS ARE PRESUMED TT HAVE BEEN OVERRUN BY THE NVA/VC. THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE 916TH RF MOBILE GROUP ALONG THE TIEN PHUOC - TAM KY ROAD WAS ALSO REPORTED OVERRUN IN LATE AFTERNOON TS MARCH 10. RF UNITS REPORTED THEY HAE DESTROYED 4 105MM AND 2 155MM ARTILLERY PIECES, IN TIEN PHUOC AND AT THE 916TH GROUP HEADQUARTERS BEFORE WITHDRAWING. AN ARVN COUNTERATTACK IS REPORTED IN PROGRESS AT THE CLOSE OF THE REPORTING PERIOD.

QUANG NGAI:

QUANG NGAI (P) HAS REMAINEE RELATIVELY QUIET. THERE HAVE BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAIGON 02763 03 OF 08 121641Z

SCATTERED HARASSING ACTIONS AND ABFS IN DUC PHO, NGHIA HANH, QUANG NGAI, TU NGHIA, BINH SON, AND MO DUC DISTRICTS, BUT NO SIGNIFICA T FIGHTING HAS OCCURRED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 02763 04 OF 08 121644Z

42

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 AID-05 DPW-01 IO-10 SR-02

ORM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /089 W

----- 011818

R 121111Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3556

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

USIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 4 OF 8 SAIGON 02763

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 02763 04 OF 08 121644Z

USIA FOR IBS/NCA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

4. ICCS:

IN ICCS REGION 1, ON MARCH 5 THE INDONESIAN AND IRANIAN DELEGATIONS CONDUCTED AN OBSERVATION AT THE SITE OF THE MARCH 3 NVA/VC SAPPER ATTACK ON THE AN LO BRIDGE IN THUA THIEN PROVINCE. IN ICCS REGION II, TWO OBSERVATIONS WERE REPORTED. ON MARCH 7, THE INDONESIANS AND IRANIANS CONDUCTED AN OBSERVATION OF THAT MORNING'S NVA/VC ATTACK ON KY XUAN SUB SUBSECTOR, LY TIN DISTRICT, QUANG TIN (P); ON MARCH 10 THE SAME DELEGATIONS CONDUCTED AN OBSERVATION OF THE ATTACK ON THE XUAN DONG HAMLET OFFICE, KY HUONG VILLAGE, TAM KY (D), QUANG TIN (P). ON THE MORNING OF MARCH 11 DURING AN ABF ON TAM KY CITY (QUANG TIN PROVINCE) ONE ROUND STRUCK A HOUSE ON THE ICCS TAM KY TEAM SITE COMPOUND. ACCORDING TO RVN TPJMC REGION II CHIEF COL. NGUYEN NGOC NGHIA, THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES AND ALL FOUR TEAMS WERE REMAINING AT THE SITE. IN REGION 1, THE INDONESIAN AND IRANIAN TEAMS HAVE REPORTEDLY RETURNED TO BOTH QUANG TRI AND PHU BAI TEAM SITES, BUT THE HUNGARIAN AND POLISH TEAMS DID NOT RETURN TO QUANG TRI AFTER SPENDING THE WEEKEND IN DANANG. THE HUNGARIAN AND POLISH TEAMS HAVE NOT BEEN DEPLOYED AT PHU BAI SINCE THE NVA/VC ATTACK ON THE PHU BAI AMMO DUMP IN JUNE, 1974.

PART VI -- MR 2.

1. SUMMARY: A COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE BEGAN IN REGION 2 ON MARCH 4 AND 5 WITH THE INTERDICTION BY COMMUNIST FORCES OF THE PRINCIPAL LINES OF COMMUNICATION TO THE HIGHLANDS: QL-19 BETWEEN QUI NHON AND PLEIKU AND QL-21 BETWEEN NHA TRANG AND BAN ME THUOT. BAN ME THUOT CITY WAS EFFECTIVELY ISOLATED WHEN QL-14, BETWEEN IT AND PLEIKU CITY, WAS ALSO CUT ON MAR 5. THAT BAN ME THUOT ITSELF ALONG WITH QUANG DUC PROVINCE FURTHER TO THE SOUTH WERE PRINCIPAL COMMUNIST TARGETS BECAME EVIDENT LATER IN THE WEEK, WHEN THE COMMUNIST LAUNCHED GROUND ATTACKS AGAVLNSTNOOHHM AT THE END OF THE WEEK, DUC LAP HAD FALLEN; BAN ME THUOT WAS STILL CONTESTED; AND THE GVN WAS MAKING INTENSIVE EFFORTS TO RE-OPEN ITS LOCS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 02763 04 OF 08 121644Z

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

MARCH 3 - 9, 1975

I. COMMUNIST-INITIATED INCIDENTS:

	TOTAL INCIDENTS	HIGHLAND	COASTAL ZONE
LAST WEEK:	45	42 PERCENT	58 PERCENT
THIS WEEK:	219	42 PERCENT	48 PERCENT

BINH DINH WAS THE MOST ACTIVE PROVINCE WITH 113 INCIDENTS.

II. GVN-INITIATED INCIDENTS:

LAST WEEK: 61 GROUND CONTACTS
THIS WEEK: 123 GROUND CONTACTS

III. COMMUNIST PERSONNEL AND WEAPONS LOSSES:

	PERSONNEL			WEAPONS		
	KIA	CIA	RETURNEE	CS	INDV	TOTAL WPNS
LAST WEEK:	271	07	07	11	79	90
THIS WEEK:	649	12	04	15	91	106

IV. GVN PERSONNEL AND WEAPONS LOSSES:

	KIA	WIA	MIA	CS	INDV	TOTAL WPNS
LAST WEEK:	32	78	51	00	03	03
THIS WEEK:	73	290	111	06	116	122

V. GVN ARTILLERY AMMO UTILIZATION (ROUNDS)

	105	155	175	TOTAL	
LAST WEEK:	6,201	742	54	6,997	
THIS WEEK:	27,848	5,180	234	33,262	

VI. GVN AIR OPERATIONS (SORTIES)

	TAC AIR	VR	HELICOPTER
LAST WEEK:	129	142	692
THIS WEEK:	230	226	1,200-

2. BINH DINH: THE COMMUNISTS KICKED OFF THEIR OFFENSIVE IN REGION 2 WITH COORDINATED ATTACKS ON QL-19 BETWEEN QUI NHON AND PLEIKU ON THE MORNING OF MARCH 4. IN BINH DINH, THE MAIN COMMUNIST THRUST CAME IN THE VICINITY OF THE AN KHE PASS ON QL-19 BETWEEN BINH KHE AND AN TUC DISTRICT TOWNS; THE ROAD THERE WAS ATTACKED AND OCCUPIED BY NVA UNITS AT NUMEROUS PLACES ON MARCH 4 (THE ATTACKERS APPARENTLY HAD SOPHISTICATED WEAPONRY, INCLUDING CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAIGON 02763 04 OF 08 121644Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 02763 05 OF 08 121651Z

43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 AID-05 DPW-01 IO-10 SR-02

ORM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /089 W

----- 011877

R 121111Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3557
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USDEL JEC PARIS
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
USIA WASHDC
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CG FMFPAC
CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB
USDAO SAIGON
USDEL FPJMT SAIGON
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 5 OF 8 SAIGON 02763

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 02763 05 OF 08 121651Z

USIA FOR IBS/NCA
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

WIRE-GUIDED, RADIO-CONTROLLED ANTI-TANK WEAPONS). DURING THE COURSE OF THE WEEK, APART FROM CONSOLIDATING THEIR POSITION IN THE AN KHE PASS AREA AGAINST HEAVY GVN FIRE, THE COMMUNISTS SHELLLED AN TUC, BINH KHE, PHU MY, AND TAM QUAN DISTRICT TOWNS AND PHU CAT AIRBASE, WHILE VC LOCAL FORCES INCREASED THE TEMPO OF THEIR ATTACKS IN THE NORTHERN AND CENTRAL DISTRICTS TO TIE DOWN GVN FORCES THERE. THE MASSING OF COMMUNIST TROOPS IN THE FOOTHILLS OF BINH KHE WEST OF PHU CAT AIRBASE (NOTABLY, THE 141ST NVA REGT

AT BR 800490) APPEARED TO PRESAGE A COMMUNIST GROUND ATTACK AGAINST THAT BASE AND THE TRIBORDER/AREA (OF PHU CAT, BINH KHE, AND AN NHON DISTRICTS) AT MID-WEEK. ALTHOUGH GVN AIRSTRIKES FORCED THE 141ST TO PULL BACK TO BR 720440, VC LOCAL FORCES WERE ABLE TO MOUNT A DRIVE AGAINST SEVERAL VILLAGES IN PHU CAT DISTRICT. ON MARCH 9 CAT THANG (CR 027444) AND CAT HIEP (BR 856533) WERE OVERRUN, AND CAT TUONG (BR 955744) AND CAT TRINH (BR 934485) WERE ATTACKED WITH RESULTS UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME. VC GAINS IN PHU CAT, HOWEVER, WERE OFFSET BY THEIR LOSSES IN TUY PHUOC DISTRICT, WHERE ON MAR 9 GVN ARTILLERY AND AIR STRIKES HIT VC TROOP CONCENTRATIONS REPORTEDLY KILLING 128 VC SOLDIERS AND LABORERS. AT WEEK'S END, LOW LEVEL FIGHTING CONTINUED IN THE CENTRAL AND NORTHERN DISTRICTS, AND THE 22ND ARVN DIV (MINUS THE 40TH REGT STILL AT THE PHU CU PASS) WAS LOCKED IN THE BATTLE FOR QL-19 WITH ALL THREE REGTS OF THE 3RD NVA DIV. THE HQS OF THE 22ND DIV WAS AT BINH KHE, AND THE CPS OF ITS 41ST, 42ND, AND 47TH REGTS WERE AT BR 795374, BR 690629, AND BR 705414, RESPECTIVELY. THE HQS OF THE 3RD DIV WAS AT BR 609569, AND THE HQS OF ITS 12TH, 2ND,

AHAMATTACHED WITH ARTY REGTS WERE AT BR 420390, BR 645400, AND BR 663519, RESPECTIVELY. REPORTEDLY GVN CASUALTIES FOR THE WEEK EXCEEDED 300 WHILE THE COMMUNISTS' EXCEEDED 500; MOST OF THE CASUALTIES RESULTING FROM GROUND AND AIR ACTION IN BINH KHE DISTRICT. A LARGE NUMBER OF REFUGEES WERE ALSO GENERATED BY THE COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE.

3. DARLAC: ALTHOUGH THE UPSURGE IN COMMUNIST MILITARY ACTION BEGAN ON MAR 4 AND 5 WITH THE INTERDICTION OF QL-19 IN BINH DINH AND PLEIKU AND QL-21 IN KHANH HOA, COMMUNIST GROUND ATTACKS AGWWYHX DUC LAP DISTRICT (QUANG DUC) ON MAR 9 AND BAN ME THUOT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 02763 05 OF 08 121651Z

CITY ON MARCH 10 APPEARED TO INDICATE THAT QUANG DUC AND DARLAC WERE THE COMMUNISTS' MOST CRITICAL OBJECTIVES. THE ATTACK ON BAN ME THUOT BEGAN AT 0200 HRS THAT DAY WITH AN ATTACK AT AN RF OUTPOST 5 KM WEST OF THE CITY. AT 0300 HRS THE COMMUNISTS LAUNCHED A HEAVY ABF AND A GROUND ATTACK AGAINST THE CITY. THE 23RD DIV'S AMMO DUMP WAS OVERRUN (THE DIV THEREBY LOST SOME 18,000 ROUNDS OF 105 MM AMMO); THE SECTOR TOC COLLAPSED AND ITS STAFF WAS EVACUATED WITH THE 96TH RANGER BN (POSSIBLY THEY MOVED TO THE 23RD'S LIGHT COMMAND POST); AND PHUNG DUC AIRFIELD 4 KM EAST OF THE CITY WAS PARTLY OVERRUN. AS OF 1120 HRS MARCH 11, GVN AND COMMUNIST FORCES WERE ENGAGED IN AN ARTILLERY DUEL ON THE PERIPHERIES OF THE STILL-CONTESTED CITY; RANGER ELEMENTS WERE IN PART OF THE CITY AND WERE SLOWLY CLEARING; AND 13 OF AN ESTIMATED 28 NVA TANKS HAD BEEN KNOCKED OUT EITHER BY THE GROUND FIGHTING OR THE HEAVY AIRSTRIKES CALLED IN BY THE GVN. THE GVN ESTIMATES SOME 425 COMMUNISTS HAVE BEEN KILLED IN THE FIGHTING THUS FAR. THE COMMUNIST UNITS IFROLVED IN THE ATTACK HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS 5TH BN/25TH NVA REGT, THE LAM DONG ARTY REGT AND THE 401ST VC

(#)

HAVE BEEN
SPOTTED BUT NOT IDENTIFIED. THE GVN IS DEFENDING WITH 3 RF COS.,
2 BNS OF THE 53RD ARVN REGT, 2 BNS OF THE 21ST RANGERS, AND VARIOUS
SUPPORT UNITS.

4. QUANG DUC: THE ATTACK ON DUC LAP BEGAN AT 0300 HRS ON MARCH
9, WHEN THE COMMUNISTS MORTARED AND LAUNCHED A SAPPER ATTACK AT
THE SUBSECTOR HQS. AT 0720 THE ATTACK BEGAN IN EARNEST WHEN THE
COMMUNISTS LAUNCHED AN EXTREMELY HEAVY MORTAR ATTACK AGAINST THAT
HQS AND ALSO INITIATED GROUND ATTACKS AT RF AND 53RD REGT POSITIONS
NEAR THE TOWN. AT 1055 HRS THE GVN FORCES IN DUC JOL

RETREATED TO THE SOUTH. FSB DAK SONG TO THE SW OF DUC LAP
WAS ALSO OVERRUN ON THE 10TH. HOWEVER, ITS FORCES, LIKE THOSE OF
DUC LAP WERE ABLE TO RETREAT IN ORDERLY FASHION. ON MAR 9 AND 10,
KIEN DUC SUBSECTOR HQS (LOCATED NEAR NHON CO AIRFIELD) ALSO TOOK
ABFS, AND ON 1000 HRS WAS ATTACKED BY COMMUNIST GROUND FORCES;
AS OF THE MORNING OF MAR 11 THE GVN FORCES IN KIEN DUC WERE
HOLDING. THE COMMUNIST UNITS INVOLVED IN THE ATTACKS IN QUANG
DUC ARE BELIEVED TO BE ELEMENTS OF THE 10TH NVA DIV.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAIGON 02763 05 OF 08 121651Z

NOTE BY OC/T: SAIGON 2763 (SEC 5 OF 8). (#)OMISSION IN PARA 4,
CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 02763 06 OF 08 121655Z

43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 AID-05 DPW-01 IO-10 SR-02

ORM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /089 W

----- 011911

R 121111Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3558
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USDEL JEC PARIS
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
USIA WASHDC
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CG FMFPAC
CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB
USDAO SAIGON
USDEL FPJMT SAIGON
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 6 OF 8 SAIGON 02763

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 02763 06 OF 08 121655Z

USIA FOR IBS/NCA
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

5. PHU BON: ON MARCH 7 AT 0800 HRS THE NVA BEGAN SHELLING THUAN MAN DISTRICT HQS, IMMEDIATELY DESTROYING THE SUBSECTOR HQS. THE NVA FOLLOWED WITH A GROUND ATTACK WHICH MET MINIMAL RESISTANCE FROM THE 4 DEFENDING RF COMPANIES, WHO ALMOST IMMEDIATELY FLED FROM THE TOWN. ALTHOUGH THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE (AN ESTIMATED 6,500) LIVING IN THE VICINITY OF THUAN MAN ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE FALLEN UNDER NVA CONTROL, SOME REFUGEES HAVE LEFT THE AREA AND REPORT THAT THERE WERE NUMEROUS CIVILIAN CASUALTIES AS A RESULT OF THE NVA ABFS IN THUAN MAN. BECAUSE OF SUBSEQUENT RALLIER REPORT THAT THE NVA WOULD CUT ROUTE 2E ABOVE BON HOAI (BQ 052674) TO CONTAIN THE CIVILIAN POPULATION, THE PROVINCE CHIEF ORDERED ALL CIVILIANS IN THE AREA (AS ESTIMATED 12,000 INCLUDING THE PEOPLE IN THUAN MAN) EVACUATED TO CHEO REO AND ALL AVAILABLE TERRITORIAL FORCES DEPLOYED AS A BLOCKING FORCE SOUTH OF BON HOAI. AS OF 1700 HRS MAR 10, 2,349 REFUGEES HAD ACTUALLY ARRIVED IN CHEO REO. CHEO REO ITSELF

TOOK 5 ROUNDS ON ITS AIRSTRIP AT 1430 HRS MAR 10 (CAUSING NO DAMAGE), AND MANY VIETNAMESE HAVE EVACUATED THE CITY (SOME GOING TO PLEIKU VIA ROUTE 7B). THE INTENTIONS OF THE NVA UNITS, IDENTIFIED BY A RALLIER AS ELEMENTS OF THE 320TH NVA DIV, IN PHU BON REMAIN UNCLEAR.

6. PLEIKU: THE COMMUNIST ATTACKS IN PLEIKU FOLLOWED THE PATTERN OF THOSE IN BINH DINH; THEY BEGAN THE MORNING OF MARCH 4 AND CONCENTRATED ON ESTABLISHING STRONG POSITIONS NEAR AND DESTROYING BRIDGES AND CULVERTS ON QL-19. THE FOCAL POINT OF ACTION IN PLEIKU WAS THE AREA BETWEEN FSB 93 (BR 039450) AND 94 (BR 135539) IN LE TRUNG DISTRICT, WHEN THE 95B NVA REGT ALONG WWITY VC LOCAL FORCES EFFECTIVELY INTERDICTED THE HIGHWAY (TEAR GAS WAS AMONG THE WEAPONS USED BY THE NVA IN THESE CLASHES). AT WEEK'S END, EFFORTS BY GVN FORCES--SPEARHEADED BY THE 4TH RANGER GROUP--TO CLEAR THE HIGHWAY BORE LITTLE PROSPECT OF IMMEDIATE SUCCESS. ELSEWHERE IN THE PROVINCE, CAMP PLEI MRONG TOOK A HEAVY GROUND ATTACK; CU HANH (PLEIKU) AIRBASE (AND, TO A LESSER DEGREE, MR-2 HQS) RECEIVED NUMEROUS ABFS; AND THANH AN WAS THE SCENE OF SEVERAL SKIRMISHES. MOST NOTABLY, ON MARCH 5 COMMUNIST FORCES IN SOUTHERN PLEIKU SUCCESSFULLY CUT QL-14 (AT AQ 8584 AND AQ 9270) LEADING TO BAN ME THUOT. TOGETHER WITH THE INTERDICTION OF QL-21 IN KHANH HOA, THIS EFFECTIVELY ISOLATED BAN ME
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 02763 06 OF 08 121655Z

THUOT AND SET THE STAGE FOR THE NVA GROUND ATTACK ON THE LATTER.

7. KHANH HOA: FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE 1973 PEACE AGREEMENT, THE COMMUNISTS LAUNCHED A MAJOR GROUND ATTACK IN KHANH HOA. THE ATTACK BEGAN ON MARCH 5 AT 0645 HRS, WHEN A REGIMENTAL SIZE FORCE TOOK HILL 519 (BQ 439161) IN KHANH DUONG DISTRICT-A HILL COMMANDING QL-21 JUST TO THE NORTH. SUBSEQUENTLY THE COMMUNISTS DESTROYED 3 BRIDGES ON THE HIGHWAY IN THE SAME AREA (THE GVN WAS ABLE TO CONSTRUCT A BYPASS AT ONE OF THESE). AT WEEK'S END, 4 RF BNS CALLED IN TO CLEAR THE APPARENTLY WELL DUG-IN COMMUNIST TROOPS IN NORTHERN KHANH DUONG HAD SUSTAINED SOME 300 CASUALTIES (REPORTEDLY THE COMMUNISTS TOOK COMPARABLE LOSSES BOTH FROM GROUND CONTACTS AND GVN AIR STRIKES), BUT HAD MADE LITTLE PROGRESS; THE ROAD REMAINED CLOSED. THE COMMUNISTS' SUBSEQUENT ATTACK ON BAN ME THUOT WOULD APPEAR TO INDICATE THAT CUTTING OF QL-21 WAS PART OF THE COORDINATED EFFORT TO ISOLATE AND TAKE BAN ME THUOT.

9. KONTUM: KONTUM SAW NO MAJOR COMMUNIST ATTACK BUT WAS HARASSEED BY COMMUNIST ARTILLERY AND GROUND FORCES--HARASSMENT PROBABLY DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE THE GVN NOT TO PULL UNITS OUT OF KONTUM TO THE BATTLEFIELDS FURTHER SOUTH. ON MARCH 4, A COMMUNIST GROUND ATTACK NE OF KONTUM WAS REPULSED BY THE 11TH RANGER BN, WHICH TOOK 6 WIA AS AGAINST REPORTED COMMUNIST LOSSES OF 23 KIA, 6 AKS, AND 2 B-40S. ON MARCH 4 AND 7, KONTUM CITY ITSELF TOOK A TOTAL OF 33 ROUNDS OF 122MM ROCKETS; LOSSES WERE 1 CIVILIAN KILLED,

7 WOUNDED, AND 2 HOUSES DAMAGED. BOTH THE RANGER COMMANDER AND THE PROVINCE CHIEF FEEL THAT A LARGE PART OF THE NVA FORCES ASSUMED TO HAVE BEEN IN KONTUM DURING THE PAST FEW MONTHS HAVE MOVED TO PLEIKU, DARLAC, OR QUANG DUC. FOR ITS PART, THE GVN THINNED DOWN ITS FORCES IN KONTUM WITH THE DISPATCH OF THE 21ST RANGER GROUP TO DARLAC ON MARCH 7. REPORTEDLY ANOTHER RANGER GROUP MAY BE AIRLIFTED FROM KONTUM TO BAN ME THUOT WHEN THIS IS FEASIBLE. FINALLY, A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF CIVILIANS HAVE LEFT KONTUM FOR PLEIKU BECAUSE OF THEIR FEARS OF AN ATTACK ON KONTUM.

10. OTHER: DESPITE THE UPSURGE IN COMMUNIST MILITARY ACTION REPORTED ABOVE, PHU YEN, TUYEN DUC, LAM DONG, NINH THUAN, AND BINH THUAN REMAINED QUIET.

11. ICCS: IN BAN ME THUOT, THE ICCS DELEGATES (ONLY THE IRANIANS AND INDONESIAIS ARE PRESENT) ARE AT THE ICCS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAIGON 02763 06 OF 08 121655Z

COMPOUND. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF 1 IRANIAN MAJOR, ALL ICCS DELEGATES LEFT PHU BON ON MAR 10. REPORTEDLY THE POLISH AND HUNGARIAN ICCS DELEGATES WILL DEPART PLEIKU ON MARCH 12.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 02763 07 OF 08 121704Z

42

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 AID-05 DPW-01 IO-10 SR-02

ORM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /089 W

----- 011959

R 121111Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3559

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS
USDEL JEC PARIS
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
USIA WASHDC
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CG FMFPAC
CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB
USDAO SAIGON
USDEL FPJMT SAIGON
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 7 OF 8 SAIGON 02763

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 02763 07 OF 08 121704Z

USIA FOR IBS/NCA
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PART VII -- MR 3.

1. THE NVA/VC HAS LAUNCHED THE LONG-AWAITED DRY SEASON CAMPAIGN'S SECOND PHASE. THIS WAS SIGNALLED WITH HEAVY ATTACKS INTERDICTING ROUTE 22 TO TAY NINH MAR 9 ANE 10, A COMBINED INFANTRY AND TANK ASSAULT AGAINST TRI TAM CITY ON MAR 11, AND ROCKETING OF BIEN HOA AIR BASE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN FIVE WEEKS ON THE SAME DAY. HEAVIER ATTACKS THROUGHOUT TAY NINH PROVINCE ARE EXPECTED SHORTLY AS WELL AS HEAVY ASSAULTS IN THE EASTERN PROVINCES OF MR3, FOCUSING ON NVA/VC ATTDPTS TO INTERDICT ROUTES 1 AND 20 IN LONG KHANH PROVINCE. THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE NEW HIGH POINT WAS PRECEDED BY A RISING LEVEL OF WIDESPREAD MILITARY ACTIVITY EARLIER IN THE REPORTING PERIOD. INCIDENTS ROSE TO A TOTAL OF 273 COMPARED WITH 212 THE PREVIOUS WEEK.

2. TAY NINH RECORDED 92 OF THE WEEK'S 273 INCIDENTS (32 LAST WEEK), LONG KHANH HAD 37 (46), AND BIEN HOA HAD 30 (23). MR3 HQS REPORTED 61 GROUND CONTACTS, 124 ATTACKS BY FIRE AND 20 COMBINED GROUND AND ABF'S. THERE WERE 17 MININGS AND 51 OTHER INCIDENTS.

3. MORE THAN DOUBLING LAST WEEK'S TOTAL, NVA/VC FIRED 2,513 ABF ROUNDS, INCLUDING 1,968 MORTAR, 213 ROCKET, AND 332 ARTILLERY ROUNDS. ARVN ARTILLERY EXPENDITURES INCREASED SLIGHTLY THIS WEEK WITH 16,861 ROUNDS (15,185 LAST WEEK). VNAF 3RD AIR DIV FLEW 131 FIXED-WING SORTIES AND 207 HELICOPTER GUNSHIP MISSIONS.

4. GVN CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED AS 106 KIA, 338 WIA, AND 36 MIA. NVA/VC SUFFERED 294 KIA, 11 CIA, AND THREE RALLIERS. THIRD AIR DIV REPORTED AN ADDITIONAL 128 NVA/VC KILLED BY AIRSTRIKES.

5. ACTIVITY IN THE FORM OF ABF AND GROUND CONTACTS INCREASED IN TAY NINH PROVINCE AS NVA/VC FORCES GOT UNDERWAY WITH THEIR LONG AWAITED OFFENSIVE. MOST INCIDENTS OCCURRED SOUTHEAST AND NORTHEAST OF TAY NINH CITY AND AROUND BA DEN MOUNTAIN. ON MARCH 9, BETWEEN 0845 AND 1830 HOURS, NVA/VC FORCES INITIATED THREE SEPARATE ATTACKS AND SHELLINGS AGAINST TERRITORIAL FORCES ALONG ROUTE 22, ABOUT 12 KMS SOUTHEAST OF TAY NINH CITY AS A BEGINNING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 02763 07 OF 08 121704Z

STEP IN THE NEW HIGH POINT. IN INITIAL CONTACTS, RF LOSSES WERE LIGHT WITH 2 KIA AND 27 WOUNDED, COMPARED WITH NVA/VC 30 KIA AND TWO CAPTURED. ON THE AFTERNOON OF MARCH 11, QL 22 WAS STILL INTERDICTED.

6. ON MARCH 11, TRI TAM CITY ON THE WESTERN BORDER OF BINH DUONG PROVINCE CAME UNDER A HEAVY INFANTRY AND ARMOR ATTACK. TANKS WERE IN THE CITY ATTACKING SECTOR HQS AS THIS REPORT WAS DRAFTED AND THE OUTLOOK FOR THIS DISTRICT TOWN WAS NOT GOOD

7. ACTIVITY INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY DURING THE WEEK IN LONG AN PROVINCE WITH MAJOR CONTACTS TAKING PLACE BETWEEN TERRITORIAL FORCES AND ELEMENTS OF THE 117 NVA SAPPER REGT. IN TWO CONTACTS ON MARCH 9, FOUR KMS NORTH OF BEN LUC, TERRITORIAL FORCES LOST 36 KILLED, 16 WOUNDED, AND 23 MISSING IN ACTION. NVA/VC CASUALTIES WERE 21 KILLED. ON MARCH 10, THE NVA/VC FIRED 25 ROUNDS OF 122MM ROCKET AGAINST BEN LUC SUBSECTOR. TWO CIVILIANS WERE KILLED, TWO CIVILIANS WERE WOUNDED, AND FOUR CIVILIAN HOUSES WERE DESTROYED. ALSO ON MARCH 10, NVA/VC FORCES ATTACKED SIX RF OUTPOSTS NORTH AND NORTHWEST OF BEN LUC. TOTAL GVN CASUALTIES IN THESE ATTACKS WERE THREE KILLED AND FOUR WOUNDED. TOTAL NVA/VC CASUALTIES WERE 12 KILLED.

8. ALONG QL13 IN BINH DUONG/BINH LONG PROVINCES, 5TH ARVNDIV UNITS CONTINUED OPERATIONS PUSHING NORTH OF LAI KHE TO MEET RANGER UNITS PUSHING SOUTH FROM CHON THANH DISTRICT IN AN ATTEMPT TO LINK FORCES AND OPEN QL 13. ON MAR 11, THE GVN FORCES WERE STILL ABOUT TEN KMS APART. RANGER POSITIONS IN CHON THANH AND ALONG QL 13 WERE SHELLED BY NVA/VC FORCES DURING THE WEEK. ARVN

CASUALTIES WERE SIX KIA AND 20 WIA. THREE NVA/VC SOLDIERS WERE KILLED. ALSO IN BINH DUONG, PHU HOA DISTRICT CAME UNDER A SERIES OF ATTACKS BEGINNING MAR 9 AS A RESULT OF WHICH ROUTE 8A WAS CLOSED. IN RELATED INCIDENTS, CU CHI BASE CAMP, PERMANENT HQS OF THE 25TH ARVN DIV, TOOK SEVERAL ABF'S.

9. IN LONG KHANH PROVINCE ACTIVITY CONTINUED AT A MODERATE LEVEL. THE 18TH ARVN DIV CONTINUED OPERATIONS NE OF XUAN LOC IN THE BAO CHANH AREA WITH 18 NVA/VC KILLED AND A SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITY OF WEAPONS AND AMMO CAPTURED IN ONE OF THE MORE SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS. THE NVA/VC ESTABLISHED SEVERAL SIMPLE ROAD OBSTRUCTIONS ON
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAIGON 02763 07 OF 08 121704Z

ROUTES 20 AND 1 DURING THE WEEK WITH ALL BEING QUICKLY CLEARED BY GVN FORCES.

10. ON MARCH 11, AT 0600 HOURS, NVA/VC GUNNERS FIRED 30 ROUNDS OF 122MM ROCKETS INTO BIEN HOA AIR BASE, MR3 HQS, AND INTO SURROUNDING HAMLETS. ONE ADDITIONAL ROCKET IMPACTED AT BIEN HOA AIR BASE AT 0805 HOURS. THREE CIVILIANS WERE REPORTED KILLED, THREE SOLDIERS AND 16 CIVILIANS WERE REPORTED WOUNDED. ONE WAREHOUSE AT THE AIR BASE CONTAINING UNIFORMS AND TIRES WAS DESTROYED. DURING THE WEEK, AN ARMORED-RANGER TASK FORCE WHICH PENETRATED AN IMPORTANT SAPPER BASE ON THE BIEN HOA/BINH DUONG BORDER USED BY THE 119TH SAPPER BN, CONTINUED ITS SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS CAPTURING SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITIES OF WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT INCLUDING 122MM ROCKETS, INFLECTING ADDITIONAL CASUALTIES ON THE SAPPERS, AND DESTROYING BASE FACILITIES. RANGER UNITS CONTINUED THEIR SWEEP OPERATION IN NHON TRACH DISTRICT OF BIEN HOA PROVINCE AND RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE.

11. SAPPER ACTIVITIES IN THE GIA DINH PROVINCE AREAS SURROUNDING SAIGON CONTINUED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD. TEN KMS NW OF SAIGON ON THE NIGHT OF MARCH 9 A PLATOON SIZED NVA/VC FORCE PENETRATED THREE HAMLETS NEAR HOC MON DISTRICT TOWN ALONG QL 1 (ROAD TO TAY NINH). THESE PENETRATIONS RESULTED IN SEVEN PSDF WOUNDED AND TEN MISSING WITH ONE SAPPER KILLED AND ANOTHER CAPTURED.

12. ICCS: ON MARCH 7, THE INDONESIAN AND IRANIAN DELEGATIONS CONDUCTED ONE OBSERVATION AT THE VINH TRUONG SUB-SUBSECTOR HQS IN BINNH DUONG PROVINCE, VIC XT878172, WHICH HAD BEEN ATTACKED BY NVA/VC FORCES EARLIER THAT SAME DAY.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 02763 08 OF 08 121735Z

43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 AID-05 DPW-01 IO-10 SR-02

ORM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /089 W

----- 012570

R 121111Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3560

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

USIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 8 OF 8 SAIGON 02763

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 02763 08 OF 08 121735Z

USIA FOR IBS/NCA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PART VIII -- MR 4.

1. MILITARY SITUATION: (A) OVERALL SECURITY: DELTA MILITARY ACTIVITY INCREASED SLIGHTLY DURING THE WEEK, WITH A SHARP INCREASE IN NUMBER OF INCIDENTS THE LAST DAY OF THE REPORTING PERIOD SIGNALING BEGINNING OF NEW HIGHPOINT. ACTIVITY CENTERED ON CONTINUED GVN PREEMPTIVE OPERATIONS WHICH WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR A LARGE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS, THOUGH ONLY TWO IMPORTANT CONTACTS. CORPS REPORTS 299 NVA/VC INITIATED INCIDENTS (244 LAST WEEK), CONSISTING OF 24 GROUND ATTACKS (15), 21 INFILTRATIONS (17), 144 ATTACKS BY FIRE (138), 76 HARASSMENTS (39), 13 SABOTAGE (3), 20 TERRORIST INCIDENTS (27), AND ONE BETRAYAL (5). DESPITE THE INCREASE IN INCIDENTS LOSSES FOR BOTH SIDES GENERALLY DIPPED, WITH GVN REPORTING 118 KIA (126), 546 WIA (643), 30 MIA (36). 5 CREW-SERVED WEAPONS LOST (3) AND 96 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS LOST (85). CORPS CLAIMS 593 NVA/VC KILLED (764), 69 PRISONERS AND SUSPECTS CAPTURED (65), 9 CREW-SERVED (29) AND 222 INDIVIDUAL (261) WEAPONS SEIZED.

(B) NORTHERN DELTA: INCIDENTS IN THE NORTHERN DELTA INCREASED IN NUMBER BUT WERE MAINLY ABF'S, BOOBY TRAP INCIDENTS AND HARASSMENTS. IN KIEN PHONG (P) NVA/VC ATTACKS AGAINST RF/PF OB'S INCREASED WITH ONE PLATOON-SIZED OB ON THE CAI CAI CANAL IN EASTERN HONG NGU OVERRUN. AT SA DEC'S REQUEST, CORPS HAS ORDERED ONE SA DEC BN THAT HAD BEEN OPERATING IN GIAO DUC (D), DINH TUONG (P) TO RETURN TO SA DEC. KIEN PHONG HAS BEEN ORDERED TO REPLACE THIS BATTALION. THE REDEPLOYMENT WOULD GIVE KIEN PHONG SECTOR COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITY FOR ROUTE 30 ALL THE WAY TO GIAO DUC SUB-SECTOR, BUT AREA MAY BE TOO LARGE FOR HIS FORCES TO EFFECTIVELY CONTROL. IN DINH TUONG, ONE PF OB WAS OVERRUN ON CANAL 28 IN WESTERN CAI BE (D) NEAR ROUTE 222 BUT WAS LATER RETAKEN. TWELVE PERSONS WERE KIDNAPPED - SIX PF AND SIX CIVILIANS - IN TWO SEPARATE INCIDENTS, ONE OUTSIDE SAM GIANG DISTRICT TOWN AND ONE OUTSIDE OF CAI LAY DISTRICT TOWN. THERE WAS NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN KIEN TUONG AS GVN FORCES CONCENTRATED ON SECURITY OPERATIONS SOUTH OF VAM CO TAY RIVER. NVA/VC SAPPERS DESTROYED THE AP BAC BRIDGE ON ROUTE 29 IN KIEN BINH DISTRICT TOWN. A TEMPORARY BRIDGE HAS BEEN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 02763 08 OF 08 121735Z

CONSTRUCTED AND TRAFFIC RESTORED. THE 15TH REGIMENT, 9TH DIVISION, HAS MADE NO PROGRESS IN ITS EFFORTS TO PUSH THE 367B SAPPER REGIMENT AND E-1/5TH NVA DIVISION FROM THE TUYEN NHON DISTRICT MARKET AREA.

(C) CENTRAL DELTA: THE GVN HELD THE INITIATIVE IN THE CENTRAL DELTA AS SECURITY OPERATIONS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR MOST INCIDENTS. IN SA DEC, A VN NAVY PATROL ATTACKED

ABOUT 50 SAMPANS CROSSING FROM KIEN PHONG (P) TO SA DEC (P) SINKING HALF OF THEM. SAMPANS WERE REPORTEDLY CARRYING THE 502A VC BN. NO INFORMATION AS TO CASUALTIES WAS AVAILABLE BUT THE BN COMMANDER WAS REPORTED KILLED. AN RF SECURITY OPERATION IN LAP VO (D) SCORED A MINOR SUCCESS WITH 15 VC KIA AND 8 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS SEIZED IN EXCHANGE FOR 2 RF'S KIA AND 7 WIA. VC ERECTED SEVERAL ROADBLOCKS ON ROUTES 8A AND 23 AND MINED 17 RURAL ELECTRIC HIGH TENSION TRANSMISSION TOWERS IN DUC THANH AND DUC TON DISTRICTS. SECTOR FORCES IN VINH LONG (P) CONTINUED TO HOLD THE INITIATIVE, ENTERING VC MINI-BASE AREAS IN MINH DUC (D), DESTROYING MACHINE SHOPS AND MUNITIONS SUPPLIES. OPERATIONS THERE WILL CONTINUE THROUGHOUT THE WEEK. SAPPERS ATTACKED AN RF REAR BASE KILLING 5 RF'S, WOUNDING 12, AND DESTROYING 49 INDIVIDUAL AND 3 CREW-SERVED WEAPONS. KIEN HOA EXPERIENCED TERRORIST INCIDENT AND NUMBER OF ABF'S. DON NHON EISTRICK TWON RECEIVED 22X82MM MORTAR ROUNDS WITH NO CASUALTIES OR MAJOR DAMAGE. ONE HAMLET CHIEF WAS ASSASSINATED BY AN ARMED GROUP OF VC IN BA TRI (D). ENEMY ACTIVITY IN PHONG DINH (P) WAS RESTRICTED PRIMARILY TO ABF'S. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT WAS THE SHELLING OF TAN PHUOC HONG (V), PHUNG HIEP (D), WHERE 21X82MM ROUNDS FELL ON AN RF BN HEADQUARTERS, WOUNDING 2 RF'S. ACTIVITY WAS LIGHT IN KIEN GIANG (P). KIEN BINH (D) OPERATIONS CONTINUED IN HOA-QUAN (V). THE 476 RF BN HAS BEEN MOVED ENTIRELY FROM HIEU-LE (D) TO KIEN BINH (D). TWO BUSES DETONATED MINES ON ROUTE 12, KILLING 4 CIVILIANS AND WOUNDING 10.

(D) SOUTHERN DELTA: ACTIVITY IN CHUONG THIEN (P) CONSISTED PRIMARILY OF SMALL UNIT CONTACTS AND ABF'S WITH LOW CASUALTIES. NVA/VC ACTIVITY WAS ALSO LOW IN BA XUYEN (P), MAI LY TAKING THE FORM OF HARASSMENTS AND ABF'S, WHILE GVN FORCES IN THE PROVINCE STEPPED UP THEIR SECURITY OPERATIONS WITH LITTLE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAIGON 02763 08 OF 08 121735Z

REPORTED RESULT. THERE WAS A SLIGHT INCREASE IN THE LEVEL OF INCIDENTS IN BAC LIEU, BUT HERE ALSO THEY PRIMARILY TOOK THE FORM OF HARASSMENTS, BOOBY TRAPS AND SHELLINGS. ACCORDING TO THE SECTOR S-2, 2 VC COMPANIES WITH A (-MM PIECE WERE SPOTTED IN PHUOC LONG (D) ON THE BAC LIEU-CHUONG THIEN PROVINCIAL BORDER. A REQUESTED AIRSTRIKE ON THE AREA WAS DENIED DUE TO LOW PRIORITY. THE 411 RF BATTALION BEGAN OPERATIONS AGAIN AFTER RETURNING FROM CA MAU. ITS RENEWED OPERATIONS IN BAC LIEU HAVE ALREADY RESULTED IN SEVERAL SMALL UNIT CONTACTS GENERALLY FAVORABLE TO THE GVN. THE LEVEL OF ACTIVITY IN AN XUYEN REMAINED THE SAME, AND MOSTLY CONSISTED OF SMALL UNIT CONTACTS WITH LITTLE RESULT. TERRITORIAL FORCES HAVE BUILT OPERATING BASES IN THE NEWLY REOCCUPIED TAN LOC (V), QUAN LONG (D). 118 MEN OF THE DISBANDED 412 RF BATTALION WERE REASSIGNED TO THE 471 RF COMPANY

IN HAI YEN (D), WHILE THE REMAINDER WENT TO THE 537 RF BATTALION.

(E) ICCS ACTIVITIES: NO OBSERVATIONS WERE CONDUCTED IN REGION VI. THE MOC HOA TEAMSITE REMAINS UNMANNED, ALTHOUGH THE IRANIANS HAVE INDICATED THEIR INTENTION TO RETURN. TWO OBSERVATIONS WERE CONDUCTED IN ICCS REGION VII. BOTH INCIDENTS WERE GROUND ATTACKS, ONE AGAINST THE OPERATING BASE OF A 21ST DIVISION TRANSPORTATION BATTALION AND THE OTHER AGAINST THE OPERATING BASE OF AN RF BATTALION.
LEHMANN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMBAT OPERATIONS, COMBAT ZONES, POLITICAL SUMMARIES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchandr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SAIGON02763
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P750067-1363, D750111-0499, D750105-0904
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750358/aaaabzyc.tel
Line Count: 1313
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 24
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchandr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2003 by buchandr>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VIETNAM WEEKLY CEASEFIRE ASSESSMENT FOR MARCH 5-11, 1975
TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, VS
To: BANGKOK STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006